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Personal Email/Ex. 6 [redacted]@hotmail.com[redacted]@hotmail.com]  
**From:** Richardson, Lisa  
**Sent:** Mon 6/1/2015 7:40:50 PM  
**Subject:** Changing fishing regulations in Cunningham Gulch, San Juan County

Dear Mr. Jim White,

I am emailing to follow up the conversation we had last Friday afternoon regarding enhancing fishing regulations in Cunningham Gulch to "catch and release" for Cutthroat.

As you know, each year, we see more and more angler activity in our very few drainages that do have good enough water quality to sustain a Cutthroat population. With the bottom part of Cunningham Creek being 2WD accessible and one of the most picturesque places imaginable, the fish populations there must be getting highly stressed by the time low flows arrive.

I believe one of the goals in stocking Cutthroat fry, as you do in Cunningham, should not just be to offer the angler a Cutthroat experience, but also to encourage the population to spawn. This goal would be complimented by a "catch and release" regulation for Cutthroat. I have spoken to several local fisherman that have witnessed spawning behavior in Cunningham.

With such a large population of Brooke Trout at the bottom of Cunningham at Howardsville, it seems the Cutthroat in this drainage are really up against all odds. It's a wonder they can compete.

The importance of this population is underlined by being surrounded by poor water quality and an unknown amount of time before the water quality objectives for the Upper Animas are agreed upon. Therefore, this is a perfect time to add some protection in Cunningham.

This could also be a wonderful opportunity to educate the public with signage addressing Cutthroat and Brookie identification, current local water quality conditions, and the life and history of Cutthroat in Colorado. I am sure BLM would be willing to play a role in this.

I have also spoken to several members of Trout Unlimited that have said they would be in strong support of such a change.

Thank you for spending time with me on the phone last Friday. If there is anything more I can do to foster progress on this subject, please let me know.

Very Sincerely,

*Lisa Richardson*

*Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Program*

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